



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Independent Can Company



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www.independentcan.com

Fabricator of decorative and industrial tins
Member since June 2009

Management and Leadership

Environmental Team

The company's "Green Team" committee was established in March of 2008 and consists of 5 members representing our Production, Sales, Engineering, and Mechanical Operations departments. The mission of the committee is to develop and implement greener practices company wide and promote these practices through communication and education of the workforce. Since inception, the "Green Team" committee has reduced solid waste pick-up by 50%, established a recycling program, and educated employees on greener practices through company newsletter articles.

Waste

Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse

At Independent Can, many materials such as corrugated cartons, pallets, and wooden totes are used and then reused multiple times in the manufacturing process. After a long and extensive utilization lifespan, these items are recycled. Adopting this philosophy along with an aggressive recycling effort, Independent Can reduced solid waste pick-up by 50% in 2008. This resulted in reducing our waste removal costs from an average \$1,200 to \$600 per month, or an annual savings of approximately \$7,200.

Recycling

Corrugated material, plastic wrapping, and office paper is baled and sold to a recycler for its scrap value. Wood scrap is being collected and returned to our pallet vendor to be ground into mulch. Copper wire scrap used in our welding process is recycled back into copper wire for reuse. Mixed steel and tinfoil scrap is collected and recycled.

In 2008, the Independent Can established new recycling efforts for aluminum cans, mixed paper, plastic, and wood scrap and worked to make a concerted effort to improve its recycling of corrugated materials, mixed steel, and tinfoil steel. By year's end Independent Can's efforts netted the following totals:

<i>411 lbs of Plastic</i>	<i>.205 Tons</i>
<i>12,406 lbs of Mixed Paper</i>	<i>6.203 Tons</i>
<i>15,076 lbs of Wood Scrap</i>	<i>7.538 Tons</i>
<i>17,046 lbs of Aluminum</i>	<i>8.523 Tons</i>
<i>40,510 lbs of Corrugated Material</i>	<i>20.255 Tons</i>
<i>52,405 lbs of Mixed Steel</i>	<i>26.202 Tons</i>
<i>4,160,980 lbs of Tinfoil Steel</i>	<i>2080.490 Tons</i>
<i>Total Recycled</i>	<i>2,149.416 Tons</i>

In 2009, Independent Can purchased a baler to make recycling efforts more efficient and profitable. Currently, corrugated material, mixed paper, and plastic wrap is being baled for recycling.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

Independent Can has made a concerted effort to reduce its energy cost, thus reducing its carbon footprint. The company has installed more energy efficient lighting in the lithography department, changing metal halide tubes with T5 and utilizing motion sensors to optimize their duration of use. This reduced our average usage from 31.4 kW to 16.15 kW, saving approximately \$1.52/hour. The lamp life of a T5 fluorescent is approximately 75% longer than metal halide. Independent Can utilizes thermal imagery to assure electrical panels are running efficiently. The company employs UV lamp curing in its lithography process, eliminating gas consumption from an oven curing process. Another savings is the application of air-savers on production lines to reduce compressor usage. In 2009, Independent Can joined a "Demand Response" program in an effort to further reduce its energy costs.

Transportation

Efficient Business Travel

Independent Can utilizes teleconferencing and webinars to help reduce travel.

Water

Water Conservation

Where water is needed in the manufacturing cooling process, it is recycled through a chiller. This reduces the continual use of fresh water. Independent Can has also installed water saving auto-flushers in all its bathrooms.



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

